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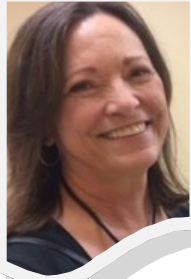
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HCMG will meet on  
**January 8, 2020**  
at  
Guadalupe Basin Natural  
Resources Center (GBNRC)  
aka UGRA  
125 Lehman Drive,  
Kerrville

**1:00 Business Meeting**  
**2:00 Program** (see page 2 for  
details)



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity".



### President's Message

Rachel Garrison

*The mission of the Hill Country Master Gardener Association is to support the Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service by providing research-based information and education to the community on the best practices of horticulture and environmental stewardship.*

### Happy New Year!

2019 was a very busy year for HCMG members. In addition to our annual Blooms & Barrels sale, training classes for 24 students, and Research Desk duties, we were involved in numerous activities that supported our mission statement expressed above. The October Tree Care Class and the monthly Gardening 101 classes at Kerrville's Butt-Holdsworth Library were well attended by the community. HCMG speakers presented more than 50 presentations to various organizations in the counties we serve. Along with the tables and booths at various events and all of our projects, collectively our 137 members volunteered almost 10,000 hours to accomplish our mission. Whew, what a busy year!

2020 is shaping up to be a continuation of many of the activities mentioned above. Plans for the next training class are well under way. The Blooms and Barrels sale will be held the Saturday before Easter. The Public Program committee is in the process of planning another program to present to the community. The library Gardening 101 Series will continue. CEU presentations for the coming months are being secured. Certainly, we will receive many requests to speak or present to various organizations in the counties we serve. The Executive Committee, and all those who are in administrative positions, are working hard to keep our organization operating efficiently. I've only touched the surface of all the ways we have in the past, or can in the future, carry out our mission statement. As a Master Gardener who only completed training and certification in 2017, I have much yet to learn about gardening in the Texas Hill Country. I plan to continue learning and using my newly attained knowledge. I challenge you to look for an area or project in our scope of activities to use your skills, connect with fellow members, and enjoy your time serving the interested public. You will make some new friends and hone your gardening skills as you serve. If you are looking for a way to get involved, just ask. We will be more than happy to get you plugged in to a project at a convenient location, or to an activity that sparks your interest.

**Continued on page 4**

**HCMG 2019 Continuing Education Opportunities prepared by Racann Reid**

*Attendance at events other than Master Gardener meetings is optional. We list events for those wishing to attend other educational offerings, not all events are eligible to fulfill CEUs credits toward annual recertification.*

**January 7, 6:30 p.m.** social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m., NPSOT Boerne. Shannon Brown, permaculture designer, holistic management practitioner and low impact development construction inspector, will discuss how urban and suburban landscapes impact the health of local river systems. Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium. Visitors welcome.

**January 8, 1:00 p.m. Hill Country Master Gardener** 1:00 pm. business meeting, 2:00 p.m., CE program, HCMG scholarship winners Gabriella Alisa Hale and Rachel Nicole Fugua Holland will discuss their activities and provide some horticultural ideas. HCMG scholarship program chair Carl Luckenbach will discuss the importance of our scholarship program. Guadalupe Basin Natural Resources Center. HCMGs, interns.

**Additional information from Edna Platte,  
CE Coordinator**

**Gabriella Alisa Hale** is a senior in Texas Tech University's Department of Plant and Soil Science with a Horticulture specialization. She will graduate in May 2020 and plans to continue her studies until she receives her PhD in Plant Breeding and Genetics. She aspires to a research career focusing on improving horticultural breeding methods. Gabriella graduated from Fredericksburg High School.

**Rachel Nicole Fugua Holland**, the other scholarship recipient is a graduate student pursuing a Master of Agriculture with a major of Horticulture at Texas A&M University. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Texas A & M from the College of Agriculture and Life Science with a major in Agricultural Leadership in May 2019. She grew in New Braunfels and was involved in 4 H for ten years. Both women participated in a very diverse list of activities while in high school and in collage. They both plan to have a brief power point presentation.

**January 8, 2:00 p.m., Rose Garden Club of Medina.** Karen Privett, former chef at Dietert Center, will present "Spices Around the World" and will include growing and cooking with herbs and a demonstration. Medina Community Center. Visitors welcome.

**January 11, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Riverside Nature**

**Center Association.** Certified arborist Karen Rockoff will hold a workshop, "Oak Wilt and New Discoveries," including her positive test results in species once thought unlikely to be affected and strategies for tree preservation and diversity. Riverside Nature Center.

**January 14, 1:00 p.m. social,** followed by the meeting at 1:30 p.m., NPSOT Kerrville. NPSOT Kerrville member Sandra Magee will present an overview of the free native plant books she and her husband Scott have developed for tablets, smart phones, and other electronic devices. Riverside Nature Center. Visitors welcome.

**January 21, 10:00 a.m., Hunt Garden Club.** Trisha Hamil, president and creative director of Viridian Design Studio, Inc., will answer the "big" question, "What's next for creating the perfect floral design?" Hunt United Methodist Church. Visitors Welcome.

**January 27, 6:15 p.m. social,** followed by the meeting 6:45-8:00 p.m. Hill Country Master Naturalists. Peggy Sechrist, certified holistic management educator and spokesperson for "Empowering Women in Agriculture," will present Soils for Water. Guadalupe Basin Natural Resources Center Auditorium. Visitors welcome.

**January 28, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m., NPSOT Fredericksburg.** John R. Thomas, founder and owner of Wildseed Farm in Fredericksburg, will present the history of Wildseed Farms, the growing consumer and corporate demand for wildflowers, and hints on how to grow a gorgeous field of native wildflowers. Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.

**Addresses for Events Listed Above**

Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium, 140 City Park Rd, Boerne  
Guadalupe Basin Natural Resources Center auditorium, 125  
Lehmann Drive, KRVL  
Hunt United Methodist Church, 120 Merritt Road, Hunt  
Medina Community Center, 13857 State Hwy 16N, Medina  
Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam St, FBG  
Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St, KRVL



## Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace

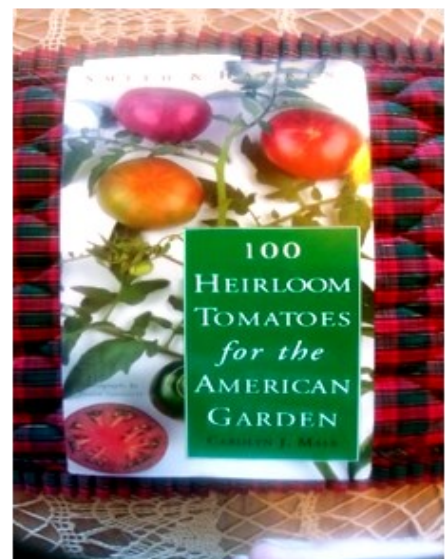
Happy New Year to all the Hill Country Master Gardeners. Hope all of you had a great holiday season with friends and family. This month I've been spending time on much needed fencing projects. I've been replacing old net wire around the house and barn area. I've had to do some repair work on the chimney on our house's well. I have not spent any time working in the garden. If you remember, this is the first year, in many years, that I did not put in a winter garden. That being the case, I have been planning for this spring. I'm thinking of moving the garden in order to make room for a building project. I haven't decided for sure, but I might move the garden just in case.



Catalogs

About two or three weeks ago I got two of my favorite seed catalogs, "Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds" and "Seed Savers Exchanges". I discovered Baker Creek a few years ago. It is full of heirloom seeds from around the world. The pictures are wonderful and it's full of interesting information about vegetables, herbs and other plants and flowers. Seed Savers is a new catalog for me. There again, its full of varieties that I'm not familiar with. I like the non-hybrid, non- GMO concept of the organization. Both operations work to preserve rare and endangered varieties and work with growers around the country to bring some of these varieties back.

I picked up a new book titled, "100 Heirloom Tomatoes for the American Garden". I found this book on Amazon for about \$25 dollars. When I find books I like, I always check e-Bay. I found this book, used, for a little over \$3 dollars with free shipping. You can find good deals on used books on Amazon but there are lots of these same books on e-Bay so its worth checking both. I like real books over e-books any day. A lot of books nowadays are available in digital format, I'm just old school. I intend to grow some Cherokee Purple and Arkansas Traveler tomatoes from the seeds I collected last year and intend to collect a new generation of seeds this year. Don't be surprised if I try something new from one of these new catalogs.





## President's Service Awards

The President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) program was established to honor volunteers who give hundreds of hours per year helping others. These volunteers can be individuals, families and organizations located throughout the United States. The PVSA is an initiative of the Corporation of National and Community Service (a federal agency) and is administered by the Points of Light (established by President George HW Bush in 1990). The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes US citizens who have achieved the required number of hours of service. Hours are measured over a 12 month period and awards are designed based on accumulative hours. Our period is from November 1 thru October 31 of each year. Recipients receive a letter of congratulations signed by our current President of the United States, a certificate and a service pin.

**Hill Country Master Gardeners volunteers who have reached these goals are:**

**BRONZE PIN- 100 to 249 Hours of Service**

**Numbers of Master Gardeners receiving the bronze pin by years:**

**2019=21, 2018 = 24, 2017 = 26, 2016 = 18, 2015 = 17**



From left Vickie Killeen, Sandy Lewis, Patty Zohlen, Raeann Reid, Kim Courtright, Pat Wolters, Sue Hall, Linda Proffitt, Debbie Bacon, Janell Dahms, Darla Cluster and Debbie Bass.

**Not pictured:**

Judy Beauford, Donna Bellis, Fernando Gonzalez, Lydia Jones, Keeley Porter, Patti Schlessiger, Chris Seifert, Shirley Smith and Christin Snyder.

**Photo Credit: Mark Shultz**

### President's message continued:

It has been said that "many hands make light work." Find an area to which you can lend a hand and invite a gardening friend to join you. You'll be glad you did! Maybe next year our collective volunteer hours will surpass 12,000.



HCMG  
Christmas Party at  
Riverhill

December 4, 2020

Photo Credit  
Vickie Killeen



Above clockwise:  
Darla Cluster, Jeanne Hoverson,  
Rita Aliperto, Ray Tiemann,  
Connie and Duane Robinson,  
Bee Evans & Mimi Bouslog.



Left Clockwise: Chris Siefert, Terrie Clark, Jerry Clark, Jerry Christenson, Donna McCanlies, MG transfer from Victoria & Jan Grimes

Right clockwise:  
Malayne Arnold,  
Joyce Studer,  
Raeann Reid,  
Kathy Lewis,  
Nancy Rodriguez,  
Terri DeBusk,  
Connie Townsend &  
Tommie Airhart







## HCMG Christmas Party

1. Dee Dunton, Terri DeBusk, Tommie Airhart, & Nancy Rodriguez
2. Sue Hall, Patty Zohlen, & Kim Courtright
3. Jan Sewell, Paul Zohlen, & Mimi Bouslog
4. Kathy Lewis & Trudy Boardman
5. Dave Garrison, Debbie Bacon & Tommy Rupert
6. Duane Robinson, Connie Robinson, Sandy Lewis & Debbie Bass

Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen

## *Jackie Skinner is Volunteer of the Year*



Last year's recipient, Linda Proffitt, introduced this year's winner. "Jackie Skinner has worked tirelessly since becoming a Texas MG in 2014. She has worked many hours on preparation and presentations to public venues such as garden clubs, homeowner associations and public programs. She believes in giving good horticultural research-based information. She spent hours researching answers to horticultural questions on the Research Desk and assisting/training Interns with their questions. She has mentored multiple students/interns since 2015 and was a mentor to two during 2019. She serves, and I mean literally serves, & does the coordination, preparation, and delivery of food during B&B, specialist programs and member networking activities. Since leaving the Executive Committee after two full terms, she endlessly weeds, hoes, plants and coordinates workmen for the reconstruction of the irrigation system, plantings and donates not only her time

workers for the reconstruction of the irrigation system in the Demo Garden. In addition she donates not only her time but financially to make our Demo Garden look its best for the many visitors' education and enjoyment. Her dedication to the goals of HCMG and to the organization itself are indeed admirable and worthy of recognition as volunteer of the year." **Photo Credit: Mark Shultz**

### **Mentoring is Fun—Part II**

We are gearing up for our Class of 2020! The classes will be held from February 18 through April 1, 2020. Below are a few of the Mentor's responsibilities.

1. Make contact with your student ASAP and definitely before class orientation on February 18th.
2. Attend orientation day to make them feel welcome.
3. Keep in touch with your student during the classes to see how they are doing. Better yet, attend a few of the classes and have lunch with them.
4. Attend Graduation day on April 1.
5. After graduation, the mentors will be given a monthly update on volunteer hours completed by the intern until certification.
6. Mentors are asked to present the mentee their certificate at the next monthly meeting.
7. Offer assistance and encouragement!!!!

Rachel and I will be holding a Mentor orientation meeting, probably in late January. In the meantime, please email me at [Dbake1010@live.com](mailto:Dbake1010@live.com) with questions or to sign up.

Wishing everyone the best of health in the New Year!

Debbie Bacon



**Note from Jackie Connelly, Timekeeper.** Well darn, sometimes things happen...like mixing up the list of Year's of Service pins at the Awards Luncheon in December. Seems I grabbed the wrong list and convinced myself it must be right. Well it wasn't and service pins were given to the 2020 group. The good news is, we won't have that award next year and the 2019 group will get their pins at the January meeting. I apologize for my goof. But, no body died because of it. Congratulations to everyone.

List of Master Gardeners Reaching Milestone Years of Service as of **2020 (given in error)**

<b>Years of Service</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Recipients</b>	
Twenty	Class of 2020	None yet	
Fifteen	Class of 2005	Anne Brown Sandy Martin	Sue Hall Connie Townsend
Ten+	Class of 2010	Jackie Connelly Jim Laham	Jan Grimes Joyce Studer
Five+	Class of 2015	Debbie Bass Brenda Fest Mike Muskopf Nancy Rodriguez	Frank Dunlap Gary Fest Edna Platte Janice Walker

List of Master Gardeners Reaching Milestone Years of Service as of **2019 (to be given in January meeting)**

<b>Years of Service</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Recipients</b>	
Twenty	Class of 2019	Tommie Airhart	
Fifteen	Class of 2004	Liz Althaus Peggy Benson	
Ten+	Class of 2009	Al Bispo Caryl Hartman Pat McCormick Jane Rackley Diane Sellers (took 2 years LOA) Leigh Thomas	Terri DeBusk Rose Marie Muzanke Ronda McIlvian Duane Robinson Pam Umstead
Five+	Class of 2014	Debbie Bacon Jerry Christiansen Becky Northcutt Wil Rolfe Vickie Shari Worsham	Jeanine Capeheart Allen Noah Linda Proffitt Jackie Skinner

## President's Service Awards continued

### SILVER PIN - 250 – 499 Hours of Service

Numbers of Master Gardeners receiving the silver pin by years:

**2019-7, 2018 = 4, 2017 = 4 2016 = 5, 2015 = 6**

From Left: Janice Walker, Bernadell Larson, Jackie Skinner, Rachel Garrison, Jackie Connelly, Pam Umstead and Kathy Lewis.



### GOLD PIN – 500+ Hours of Volunteer Service

Numbers of Master  
Gardeners receiving the gold pin by years:

**2019 = 1, 2018 = 2, 2017 = 4, 2016 = 1,  
2015 = 0**

Anne Brown receives certificate from Roy Walston, County Extension Agent-Ag/NR, Kerr County and President Rachel Garrison.

**Photo Credit:  
Mark Shultz**







## Demonstration Garden

Members of the Demonstration Garden committee endlessly weed, mow, hoe, plant and ponder this space. These pictures were taken after the December clean up day. Under the direction of Jackie Skinner, this dedicated group of HCMGs have provided Kerr County with a garden that makes all of us proud.

**Photo Credit: Mark Shultz**



Jackie Skinner





# Plantastic Vegetable Gardening Seminar

February 7th, 2020

8:30-3:30 pm

Gillespie County Farm Bureau Center,  
237 Equestrian Dr, Fredericksburg

Special guest speaker “Dr. Joe Masabni” of Texas A&M University will speak on organic gardening, cover crops and weed management. Other topics include tomatoes, beans, drip irrigation, herbs, basic gardening, when to harvest vegetables and more. Door prizes will be

Paid pre-registrations & lunch orders are due by February 4th. Full refunds will be given until February 4th.

Cost for the program is \$40 with a box lunch, \$30 without a box lunch and \$40 at the door with no boxed lunch.

See registration form at

<http://counties.agrilife.org/gillespie/files/2019/11/Plantastic-Gardening-Seminar-PreRegistration-Form4.pdf>

Call the Gillespie County Extension Office at



## Kerr County Pecan Show

Each year pecan growers from the Hill Country area collect and enter their pecan entries to compete for awards, recognition and advancement to the South Texas Regional Show.

### What makes a good sample?

Good pecan entries are uniform in color, shape and size; free of disease and insect markings with very little discoloration or white at the end of the pecans. Pecans should be free of splits or cracking to insure a good sample. Each entry will be selected based on a random sampling of 10 nuts selected from the entry. The 10 nuts are then weighed in shell, shelled and a kernel weight is then taken. Based on the size of the nuts, percent edible kernel, color and appearance the nuts are placed.

Right (clockwise): Joan Morgan, Janice Walker, Tina Wood, Anne Brown, Lindsey Forster, Jackie Connelly, Kara Grant & Sandra Yarbrough. Below right: Kara Grant & Jackie Connelly. Below left: (clockwise) Anne Brown, Dr. Larry Stein, Laura Rhodes, Roy Walston & Jackie Connelly.



**Photo Credit: Patti Schlessiger**





**HCMG Monthly Christmas Lunch  
& Awards Program  
Riverhill Country Club  
December 4, 2019**

Welcome-Rachel Garrison welcomed everyone. Recognize Guests-AgriLife Staff & guests of HCMG members were introduced.

Invocation-Ray Tiemann lead us in prayer.

Lunch

Approval of November 6, 2019 Minutes-Approved Treasurer's Report – Bernadell Larson said the scholarship checks will be going out in December. This was approved. Treasurer's report was approved.

**Old Business-none**

**New Business**

Edna Platt announced the two scholarship recipients will be speaking at the January meeting, as well as Carl Lukenbach. She asked for suggestions for next year's CE programs.

Executive Committee approved purchase of new computer and monitor for the office. It should be ready for use shortly. Jackie Connelly purchased the computer, and it will be installed soon.

Demo garden pergola-Jackie Skinner said she would like membership to be aware of some improvements. We received 2 bids for refurbishing the finish of the pergola. The Ex committee approved the lower of the 2, which was significantly lower. It is finished. Thank you to Tommy Rupert of TR's Handyman Service. The cost was approximately \$1400. Anne Brown motioned and Melayne Arnold 2<sup>nd</sup>. The work should be paid for the awesome job done on the pergola. Motion carried. If you still need 2019 hours-Demo garden workday tomorrow, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

Pam Umstead-invited all volunteers available to help decorate Glory Garden for Christmas on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Rachel presented the new exec committee & thanked outgoing Treasurer, Bernadell Larson for her dedication and time for a successful 2- year term.

**Awards Program**

Tina Woods received her certificate. Tina will be serving as our new Publicity Chair.

Perfect Meeting Attendance Award-Jackie Connelly, timekeeper

There were 7 members who received this award: Debbie Bacon, Donna Bellis, Jackie Connelly, Rachel Garrison, Sue Hill, Edna Platt and Pam Umstead.

President's Volunteer Service Awards were presented by Roy Walston, Kerr County AgriLife Agent. The awards are as follows: 5 years, 10 years, 15 years; 100-249 hours, 250-499 hours & 500 + hours, which was earned by Anne Brown.

2018 Volunteer of the Year (VOY)

Linda Proffitt read a description of all the hard work and achievements the 2019 VOY had accomplished over the years she has been a member. It was an honor to present this outstanding award to Jackie Skinner.

Special Awards-Kim Courtright was awarded a plaque for her many hours and dedication to bringing awareness to the public through her Gardening 101 Classes at the Butt Holdsworth Library.

2 hours volunteer time was allowed.

Next meeting will be January 8, 2020 at UGRA at 1:00

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted:  
Patti Schlessiger  
Secretary

Patti handing out new name badges

Photo Credit:  
Pat Wolters





**Hill Country Master  
Gardeners 2020  
Executive  
Committee**

Rachel Garrison  
*President*

Debra Bacon  
*Vice President*

Patti Schlessiger  
*Interim Secretary*

Jackie Connelly  
*Treasurer*

Jackie Skinner  
*Ex-officio Advisor*

Roy Walston  
*C.E.A. Advisor*

**Committees &  
Project  
Coordinators are  
listed on our  
website**

**Newsletter & Website**

*Newsletter Editor*  
Pat Wolters

*Associate Newsletter Editor*  
Patti Schlessiger

Special thanks to  
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*Photographer*  
Mark Shultz

*Continuing Education Editor*  
Raeann Reid

**Submissions to**

Newsletter.editor.hcmg  
@gmail.com



Kim Courtright  
receives a  
**Certificate of  
Recognition**  
from

Rachel Garrison for her  
work with youth and  
for her Gardening 101  
program at the Butt  
Holdsworth Library.

Photo Credit:  
Mark Shultz

**Food 4 Kids to receive HCMG Charitable Donation**

This years' charitable donation will go to the Gillespie County, Food 4 Kids. Linda Proffitt, Trudy Boardman, Raeann Reid and Joyce Studer collected donations at the December meeting. Hill Country Master Gardeners donated \$1340.00 along with 4 large boxes of food.



**Trudy Boardman, Linda Proffitt, Raeann Reid, and Joyce Studer**